

(FILE 'USPAT' ENTERED AT 07:45:48 ON 03 APR 95)

SET FIELD .CIT UREF BI RPLN REPN

L1 0 S 5047918/CIT  
L2 6 S 5047918/.CIT  
L3 5 S 5204947/.CIT

SET FIELD .CIT UREF BI RLPN REPN

L4 5 S 5204947/.CIT  
L5 0 S 5206949/CIT  
L6 3 S 5206949/.CIT  
L7 1 S CIT AB

=> s display (5a) (categor? or director? or group?) (5a) (empt? or nonempt? or match?)

161344 DISPLAY

36188 CATEGOR?

8139 DIRECTOR?

531652 GROUP?

88242 EMPT?

62 NONEMPT?

184485 MATCH?

L8 11 DISPLAY (5A) (CATEGOR? OR DIRECTOR? OR GROUP?) (5A) (EMPT? OR NONEMPT? OR MATCH?)

(FILE 'USPAT' ENTERED AT 11:33:50 ON 03 APR 95)

L1 153 S SELECT? (5A) (CATEGOR? OR DIRECTOR? OR GROUP?) (5A) (EMPT?  
L2 997 S 395/600/CCLS  
L3 693 S 364/963##, 253##/CCLS  
L4 1562 S L2 OR L3  
L5 9 S L1 AND L4  
L6 27 S DYNAMIC (W) LIST?

\*\*\*\*\* Computer Select, 1989 - 1990 : Doc #117647 \*\*\*\*\*

Journal: PC-Computing April 1989 v2 n4 p35(2)  
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Title: Lotus, Traveling Software tackle DOS file management problems.  
(Software Review) (Lotus Development Corp., Traveling Software)  
(evaluation)

Author: van Kir, Doug.

Summary: Lotus Development Corp's Magellan and Traveling Software Inc's ViewLink are utilities designed to help users find information that might be stored in several unrelated files. Both packages attempt to organize files by content, no matter how they were created. Magellan automatically indexes all files on the hard disk, once loaded. Users search by key word and information can be extracted from the various files and placed into a new file. ViewLink creates both automatic and user defined links between related files on the disks. 'Views' are collections of various items on the disk that are linked by the program. Magellan has a promotional price of \$139 - which will be raised to \$195 after June 30, 1989. ViewLink sells for \$149.

Descriptors..

Company: Lotus Development Corp. (products)  
Traveling Software Inc. (products).

Ticker: LOTS.

Product: Magellan (File management software)  
ViewLink (Computer program).

Topic: File Management  
Utility Programs  
Information Storage and Retrieval  
Evaluation.

Record#: 07 114 146.

Full Text:

Lotus, Traveling Software Tackle DOS File Management Problems One of DOS's biggest problems is that it provides very few tools for managing files. DOS can't tell which program created a file and provides no way to relate files created by different applications. It doesn't matter if a task involves a memo, a spreadsheet, and a flow-chart--to DOS these are three separate files in three separate places.

It's a problem that two software companies believe warrants new products. The Lotus Development Corporation and Traveling Software have each introduced file managers that go well beyond what we've come to expect from standard hard disk organizers and may even signal the beginning of a new type of utility. Though they function differently, Lotus's Magellan and Traveling Software's ViewLink both strive to organize files by content, regardless of what application created them or where on the disk they reside.

Of the two, the \$139 (\$195 after June 30) Magellan is easier to get to know. Using an interface that resembles a file manager or DOS shell, Magellan's split-screen display shows a list of files on the left and the contents of those files on the right. Magellan recognizes the file formats of Lotus programs (1-2-3, Symphony, and Manuscript, for example) and some others and

1 displays them correctly. With other files, Magellan attempts to extract and display the textual contents from the file. If it can't, it uses a hexadecimal format similar to the DEBUG program in DOS.

5 When you install Magellan, it reads through every file on your hard disk, building a master index as it goes. This index is used for searching, which is a major feature of Magellan. A query on a keyword or phrase will turn up a list of files that are likely to contain the search argument. Once you've found the file you're looking for, the Launch key starts the application that created it and loads the file. Unfortunately, you have to run through the indexing process again if you create or modify a file, but this should take less time than the original indexing procedure.

Magellan's Gather function lets you cut information from files--word processing, spreadsheet, or database--and accumulate it in a new ASCII file, all from within Magellan.

ViewLink, the \$149 entry from Traveling Software, of Bothell, Washington, takes a more radical approach than Magellan. It requires not only considerable patience but an adjustment of work habits as well. In return, ViewLink offers a startlingly different metaphor for file organization that leaves you both amazed and bewildered. It's so different and (to some) so obvious that you'll wonder why no one thought of it before. You'll either love or hate ViewLink, but you won't be unimpressed.

5 The first challenge is the terminology. The program uses views, items, and links to describe the relationships between files and applications. Views are collections of items that have something in common. ViewLink allows you to build links from item to item and from item to view. Items are usually files, but they can also be programs, other views, or nothing at all. The user moves through the relationships by pressing cursor keys. You can either create these relationships yourself or have ViewLink create them automatically as files are stored.

3 Gauging the merit of products such as these is, of course, an extremely subjective exercise. Each product is likely to find a niche of users who will swear to increased productivity, better organization, and a new outlook. If your hard disk is screaming for organization, Magellan or ViewLink may be just what you need.

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